

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed October 4, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted. A *Notice of Appeal* and a *Request for One Month Extension of Time* were filed April 4, 2007 (received by OIPE on April 9, 2007), which extends the shortened statutory period for response to June 4, 2007. This response is filed within two months of the filing date of the *Notice of Appeal* and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Also, filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination* (RCE). Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant appreciates Examiner Kumar's time in conducting a telephonic interview on January 3, 2007, with the Applicant's representative. As described in more detail below, agreement was reached that the rejections based on the alleged combination of Kwon and Marshall or Kwon, Callahan and Marshall will be withdrawn. The Examiner agreed to consider the Applicant's remarks following the submission of the *Response* filed February 5, 2007. Since the Applicant did not receive a subsequent response from the Examiner, the Applicant subsequently filed a *Notice of Appeal* and presently files an RCE and *Amendment*.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 5, 2001; February 12, 2004; June 24, 2005; July 25, 2005; and August 15, 2005.

Claims 1-18, 37-54, 73-90, 109-126 and 145-184 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 1, 10, 37, 46, 73, 82, 109, 118, 145, 152, 159 and 166 have been amended to remove "only" in the last clause, which is not believed to be critical to the patentability of the claims. New claims 185-188 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. Accordingly, claims 1-18, 37-54, 73-90, 109-126 and 145-188 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 10, 37, 46, 73, 82, 109, 118, 145, 152, 159, 166 and 185-

188 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

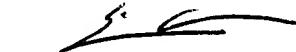
Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-9, 37-45, 145-151, 173 and 181 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,003 to Kwon and U.S. Patent No. 6,121,760 to Marshall. Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 10-18, 46-54, 73-90, 109-126, 152-172, 174, 176-180 and 182-184 as obvious based on the combination of Kwon, U.S. Patent No. 5,574,475 to Callahan and Marshall.

During the telephonic interview of January 3, 2007, agreement was reached that Figure 3 of Kwon does not teach a current source for supplying a current to the level shifter. Specifically, agreement was reached that the assertions in the Official Action, for example, at page 3, lines 3-5, and at page 9, lines 19-21, are not correct and shall be withdrawn. Examiner Kumar further agreed that Marshall and Callahan do not cure the deficiencies in Kwon. The Applicant understands that Examiner Kumar will conduct a revised search of the prior art and will issue either a new non-final Official Action or Notice of Allowability, as appropriate.

New independent claims 185-188 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. Claims 185-188 recite "a current source which supplies a current to said level shifter on input of a pulse," which, as noted above, is not taught or suggested by the alleged combination of Kwon, Marshall and Callahan. For the reasons stated above and already of record, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 185-188 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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